

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07
NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01
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P R 172025Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5876
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3233

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, EAID, JM, CA, UK
SUBJECT: CANADIAN AND BRITISH ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA

1. DURING JUNE 17 MONTHLY LUNCHEON CONVERSATION BETWEEN
CHARGE, ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER CHARLES GODDEN AND
CANADIAN DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER JOHN ROBINSON, LATTER TWO
OFFERED UP-DATES ON THEIR VIEWS ON POSSIBILITIES FOR EXPANDED
BRITISH AND CANADIAN ASSISTANCE.

2. ROBINSON COMMENTED THAT THE 25 MILLION DOLLAR CANADIAN
LOAN WHICH WAS ROLLED OVER FOR THREE MONTHS IN MAY
PROBABLY WILL BE ROLLED OVER AGAIN IN AUGUST -- PROVIDED
THERE IS SUFFICIENT PRESSURE FROM THE JAMAICANS AND FROM THE
USG. LATTER PRESSURE, HE ADDED, COULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE IF
IT FOLLOWS A U.S. DECISION TO EXPAND ITS OWN ASSISTANCE. HE
WRYLY ADDED THAT PERHAPS IT DID NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE;
IF THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS
SUPPORT AND AN IMF TRANCHE, THE JAMAICANS WILL HAVE NO
CHOICE BUT TO DEFAULT ON THE CANADIAN LOAN. HE ADDED
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THAT HE SAW LITTLE HOPE OF ADDITIONAL CANADIAN
ASSISTANCE EXCEPT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF A CONSORTIUM
OF SOME SORT -- NO MATTER HOW INFORMAL -- AND FOLLOWING
A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF U.S. ASSISTANCE.

3. GODDEN COMMENTED THAT MANLEY'S POLITICAL CAPITAL
WITH CALLAGHAN AND OTHER KEY MINISTERS IN LONDON

REMAINS HIGH, ESPECIALLY FOLLOWING ON THE COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE. MOREOVER, SOME MONEY IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR CAPITAL ASSISTANCE, ALTHOUGH NONE HAS BEEN EARMARKED FOR JAMAICA. HE SAID THAT ON AN OFFICIAL LEVEL (AS CONTRASTED TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL) IN LONDON, THERE IS LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR PROVIDING ANY ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA. HOWEVER, FOLLOWING ANY U.S. DECISION TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA, HE IS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT LONDON, IF APPROACHED AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL (AND HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN APPROACH AT THAT LEVEL) WOULD COUGH UP SOME BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT -- PARTICULARLY IF THIS CAN BE DONE WITHIN A CONSORTIUM FRAMEWORK.

4. BOTH GODDEN AND ROBINSON EMPHASIZED THEIR REMARKS, THOUGH PERSONAL, REPRESENTED THE CONSENSUS OF INFORMED VIEWS WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE MISSIONS. THEY DID ASK THAT THEY NOT BE QUOTED IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. PLEASE PROTECT.
DORRANCE

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